

# David Laban MEng (Hons) MA (Cantab)

## Contact:

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## Highlights/Timeline:

- Sept 2011 – May 2012: Music, Software and Dance Researcher, self employed.
  - Ported personal Audio/Video Applications to Windows, OSX, Linux and Android
  - Contributed to Open Source Software projects like Tomahawk and echoprint.
  - Engaged in intensive Lindy Hop, Balboa, Authentic Jazz dance training and teaching.
    - Applied my passion for problem solving to understanding/teaching dance.
    - Developed a more approachable manner for discussing concepts with all levels.
  - Provided DJing and DJ mentoring services for Lindy Hop and Balboa Dancers.
    - Further improved my understanding of music in a variety of vintage jazz styles.
- Sept 2009 – Sept 2011: Software Engineer, Collabora Ltd.
  - Developed Next Generation VoIP APIs for Telepathy (Maemo; Gnome)
  - Coordinated with Open Source developers and clients on 5 of 7 continents.
  - Improved coordination within Cambridge with weekly stand-up meetings.
  - Drove forwards automated and facilitated testing schemes with the following:
    - XMPP interoperability testing service, for our users and developers of VoIP clients.
    - Automated Validation of hardware codecs/rendering elements for Gstreamer/Linaro.
    - Initiated Sea Change in how Nokia view test coverage within their SIP modules.
  - Moved to Montreal for 3 months to work more closely with our VoIP experts, while keeping my existing responsibilities.
  - Adapted to wide range of tools (C, Python, SQL, C++, lua, git, bzip, autotools etc.)
- 2008-2009: MEng Project: At-A-Glance Song Visualisation, Cambridge University:
  - Evaluated methods of feature extraction (HMM methods) and existing software.
  - Produced 2D thumbnails from many-dimensional features.
- 2005-2009: Engineering Undergraduate, Peterhouse College, Cambridge University:
  - 4th year: MEng (Hons)
  - 3rd year BA (Hons) Engineering: 2:2
  - 1st and 2nd years (General Engineering): 2:1
  - 2007: Second Year Computing Prize (Decryption):
  - 2006: First Year Structural Design Prize (Bridge Design and Manufacture)
- 2003-2005: Bancroft's School:
  - Maths: **A**, Further Maths: **A**, Physics: **A**, Electronics: **A**, AEA Physics: **Merit**.
- 1995-2003: Highams Park School:
  - 11 GCSEs including 6 at **A\***

## Ongoing Engagements/Interests:

- 2006-present: Lindy Hop (Swing Dancing):
  - Taught small and large classes (from 1 to 50 students at a time).
  - Performed to large crowds at events like St John's May Ball and Strawberry Fair.
  - DJed at dance events: Gained a practical understanding of rhythm.
- 2006-present: Contributions to existing Open Source Projects:
  - Improved Tomahawk integration with Spotify and other online services.
  - Improved the help system for the official Python Interpreter.
  - Bug-fixes and feature enhancements in numerous other projects.
- 2006-present: Programming for Personal use:
  - Retroscope: GStreamer-based Dance Training/Video Feedback app.
  - CupsAndString: command-line instant messaging client in < 256 lines of python.
  - Customised NetworkManager for automated setup + secure tunnelling.
  - Created multiple Amarok scripts (Python/SQL).
- 2005-present: Online user support (#kde, #python, #telepathy, #tomahawk etc.):
  - Helped users to solve their problems; found/fixed many bugs.
  - Learnt a lot about netiquette; pitfalls in UI/API design.
- 2003-present: Hardware Modification (Some example projects):
  - Member of The London Hackspace.
  - Fixed miscellaneous broken computer hardware (keyboards, PDAs etc.)
  - Created hardware audio mixer (for iPod/PC to share speakers).
- 2003-present: Website Design and Maintenance:
  - Produced Initial Annor Ltd Company website, and migrated to simpler Google hosting.
  - Bancroft's School Webteam (HTML, Javascript; Dreamweaver)

## Travel:

- 2011: 3 Months living and working in Montreal.
- 2006-2011: Attended; represented my company at KDE's Akademy and Desktop Summit.
- 2009-present: Attended Herräng Dance Camp, Sweden; various workshops around Europe.
- 2007-present: Hosted foreign dancers at, and attended various UK Lindy Exchanges.
- 2005: Albany, New York + Camping in Plattsburgh, New York.
- 2004: Colorado + Utah: Engineering Summer program at University of Colorado, Boulder.

## References:

- Sjoerd Simons (Head of R&D, Collabora)
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